Purchase of Power from Neighbouring Countries

2418. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering/ have finalised proposals for import of power from neighbouring countries like Nepal, Pakistan etc.;

(b) if so, the details of agreement signed/ progress made so far in finalising the proposals;

(c) the total quantum of power proposed to be imported and financial implications thereof; and

(d) the details of action plan proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Bilateral arrangement/agreement already exists for exchange of power between India and Nepal and India and Bhutan. The Government of India and Bangladesh have agreed to prepare a joint feasibility report for inter-connection of power systems between Bangladesh and India for exchange of power between the two countries for purchase of power.

As regards import of power from Pakistan, two rounds of discussions have already been held between the two countries. Government of Pakistan has confirmed availability of 300 MW of capacity to export to India for next ten years which could be increased to 600 MW as per availability during certain periods of time depending upon technical limits of the system on either side. The operating agreement for purchase of power and the tariff rates have not yet been finalised.

Claim of Baira-Siul Hydro-Electric Project in Himachal Pradesh

2419. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to refund Rs. 31.45 crore to the former on settlement of Himachal Pradesh claims in Baira-Siul Hydro-Electric Project from February, 1982 to September, 1994;

(b) whether the Union Government has also been requested to refund Rs. 3.47 crore to H.P. Government deducted arbitrarily by the former on account of payments to Nathpa Jakhari Power Corporation when no such liability was due from Government of H.P.;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Power has not received any such request from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested for compensation equivalent to 12% free power which they are claiming is a matter of right from 1982 onwards to September, 1994. The Baira Siul Hydro-electric project was commissioned and went into commercial operation w.e.f. 1.4.1982. National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has been billing Himachal State Electricity Board (HPSEB) as per the share allocation as notified by the Government of India from time to time, right from the inception of the project. The outstanding amount of Rs. 42.82 crores as of December, 1996 consisting of the principal amount as surcharge was recovered through Central Plan Appropriation (CPA) in 1997-98. The allocation of power for Baira Siul Project was made in September, 1982. Under the Allocation order dated 2nd September, 1982, Government of H.P. was entitled to 10% of energy generated at bus bar in addition to the royalty calculated at 1.5 paise per KWH which was to be paid to the Government of H.P. This order was subsequently modified in September, 1994. The modified order dated 5.9.1994 provided for an allocation of 12% free power based on actual energy generated after deducting the auxiliary consumption. By virtue of the order issued dated 5.9.1994, the payment of royalty was stopped since the State was